

July 18, 2007

Barry Paulson
Acting Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest
1801 North 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

We write today over the impending mining development at the Lost Horse Canyon area on the Bitterroot National Forest. Our family has visited the area many times over the years, primarily for the outstanding rock climbing opportunities the site offers. Its quality of rock, scope and variety of climbing, and scenic beauty make it one of our favorite destinations, as it is for many of our climbing friends. The loss of this recreational resource would be a real tragedy, and the further impact to wildlife that we see frequently and enjoy immensely would be equally lamentable.

Any quarrying activity will result in increased danger to visitors, probably ending with the closure of the area to public use. This is a relatively low-profile area with immense importance for all its visitors, and to ruin it, essentially forever, for climbers and other recreationists would be sadly short-sighted.

We urge you to reconsider the direction the Forest Service is presently taking and find another area to quarry needed resources.

Thanks for giving us an opportunity to share our concerns over this chunk of the public domain.

Sincerely,



Andrew & Nancy Carson
Box 709
Wilson, WY 83014
307 733-4442
andrewcarson@earthlink.net

f.y.i.

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JUL 25 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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